

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A building material, comprising:
at least a first component and a second component provided adjacent said first component, wherein said first component is ~~provided as pre-formed, uncured fiber cement, wherein the fiber cement is reinforced with individualized fibers, and wherein the uncured fiber cement is cured after providing the first component adjacent to the second component~~ comprises a pre-formed fiber cement layer, wherein the pre-formed fiber cement layer substantially retains its shape prior to being positioned adjacent the second component, wherein the pre-formed fiber cement layer is sufficiently flexible for a period of time after being positioned adjacent the second component that the pre-formed fiber cement layer is capable of being molded during the period of time.

2. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the second component is made of a curable material.

3. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 2, wherein ~~the first component and the second component are simultaneously cured~~ at least a portion of the second component penetrates the pre-formed fiber cement layer so as to form mechanical and chemical bonding therebetween.

4. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 3, wherein ~~the first component and the second component are simultaneously cured~~ at least a portion of the second component is wicked into the capillary network of the pre-formed fiber cement layer so as to reduce the permeability of the pre-formed fiber cement layer.

5. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the ~~first component is partially dried before providing the first component adjacent the second~~ period of time is the time required to cure the first component from a plastic state.

6. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the second component has a density less than that of the fiber cement.

7. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the second component is fiber-reinforced.

8. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein one of the components at least partially surrounds the other component.

102 9. (Original) The building material of Claim 8, wherein the first component at least partially surrounds the other component.

cont. Co 10. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, further comprising a third component provided adjacent said first component such that the first component is located between the second component and the third component.

cont. Q1 11. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the ~~individualized~~ fibers of the first component have a substantially planar orientation.

12. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the ~~individualized~~ fibers of the first component are substantially oriented in the direction of loading.

13. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the fibers of the first component are oriented substantially parallel to the fiber cement a surface of the first component.

14. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement of the first component includes cellulose fibers.

102 15. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement of the first component ~~includes natural inorganic fibers~~ is selected from the group consisting of natural inorganic fibers, synthetic fibers, engineered fibers, and combinations thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim ~~4~~ 14, wherein the fiber cement of the first component ~~includes synthetic fibers~~ comprises individualized fibers.

102 17. (Currently Amended) The building material of Claim ~~4~~ 16, wherein the fiber cement of the first component ~~includes engineered fibers~~ comprises individualized cellulose fibers wherein at least a substantial portion of the lignin components are removed from the fiber cell walls.

102 18. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the second component is a lightweight material.

102 19. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the second component is a fire resistive material.

102 P/P 20. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement of the first component is pressed.

102 21. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement of the first component is unpressed.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement of the first component is embossed.

24. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, further comprising a sub layer between the first component and the second component to improve bonding therebetween.

cent. 25. (Original) The building material of Claim 1, wherein the second component is a lightweight core having a first side and a second side, and the first component is a pre-formed fiber cement facing on at least the first side of the core.

26. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, further comprising a second facing on the second side of the core.

27. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the fiber cement facing wraps around both the first side and the second side of the core.

28. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the facing has a thickness of less than about 3/16".

29. (Original) The building material of Claim 26, wherein the second facing is made from a material selected from the group consisting of fiber cement, a fibrous mat, paper, and a polymeric coating.

102 30. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the core is cementitious.

31. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the core is solid.

32. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the core is open.

33. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the core is homogeneous.

34. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the core is non-homogeneous.

35. (Original) The building material of Claim 32, wherein the core has a honeycomb configuration.

36. (Original) The building material of Claim 32, wherein the core includes a plurality of vertical symmetrically opposed corrugated core layers.

37. (Original) The building material of Claim 32, wherein the core includes a horizontal single corrugated layer.

38. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the building material is a single plank.

39. (Original) The building material of Claim 25, wherein the building material is a trim board.

40. - 54. (Cancelled)

Sub 2 55. (New) A building material, comprising:

a first component, wherein the first component comprises a pre-formed fiber-cement layer that is reinforced with fibers;

a second component positioned adjacent the first component, wherein at least a portion of one of the components forms interpenetrating mechanical and chemical bonding with the other component; and

wherein the pre-formed fiber-cement layer is capable of retaining a substantially planar configuration prior to being positioned adjacent the second component, wherein the pre-formed fiber-cement layer remains flexible for a period of time after being positioned adjacent the second component.

56. (New) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the first component is reinforced with individualized cellulose fibers, wherein at least a substantial portion of the lignin components are removed from the fiber cell walls.

57. (New) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the thickness of the first component is less than about 3/16 inch.

58. (New) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the period of time is the time required to air cure the first component from a plastic state.

59. (New) The building material of Claim 55, wherein the density of the first component is higher than the density of the second component.